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In Babylonia, these trade-documents were always written by the professional scribe, who belonged, at least to some extent, to the learned class, and who observed, therefore, the traditions which he had learnt at school. This custom of employing professional scribes was also, most likely, in force in Assyria. These scribes seem to have possessed, besides the Assyrian or wedge writing, also a knowledge of the Phœnician characters, as the dockets sometimes written on the edge of these trade-tablets show. To these documents and their Phœnician legends, as well as to the correspondence-tablets, must we look in order to gain an insight into the tongue of the more common people of those ancient empires. These trade-dockets also indicate that not only (as shown by the bilingual lists and syllabaries) were the Assyrians aware of the trilateralism of their language, but that they also had a knowledge, in some cases, of the original forms of their own weakened verbal roots.—*Theo. J. Pinches, in the Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology.*

➤EDITORIAL✧NOTES.◀

The Last Number.—Those of us who are immediately interested in the success of THE HEBREW STUDENT feel very grateful for the kind reception accorded to the last number. Many letters and notices of a complimentary nature have been received. If there had remained a doubt as to the wisdom of the undertaking, or as to the demand for such a journal, that doubt has been dispelled. If we may believe what is said,—and why may we not believe it—there is a work to be done which can be done only by a periodical of this character. It is for us, therefore, *to go on* and, in spite of the many difficulties which, of necessity, beset such an undertaking, to continue the work in the line, and according to the policy marked out.

It was a surprise that the import of the editorial on *Scholarly Ministers* in the last number should have been misunderstood, as it seems to have been. In ascertaining the meaning of a writer, many things must be considered, e. g., the time, circumstances, the nature of the subject, the character of the writer, etc., etc. Would a journal, whose sole purpose it is to incite ministers to study, and to be scholarly, encourage them to avoid scrupulously the study of *all texts* in order that they may be saved the trouble of considering the various views which have been propounded? Perhaps editorials should not be ironical.

In this connection it is but right to apologize for the miserable proof-reading done in the case of Prof. Newman's article: *Professor Strack on the Pentateuch*. "Regard," p. 151 (line 10 from bottom), should have been "regards;" on p. 152, "investigations" (line 16 from bottom), should have been "investigation;" "Tracer" (line 6 from bottom), "traces." On p. 153, "their" (line 9 from top), should have been "these," and "undeniably" (line 9 from bottom), should have been "undeniable." Our proof-reader, it is to be hoped, will hereafter exercise more care.

Notes From Abroad.—We feel confident that our readers will appreciate and be profited by the Notes from Germany, published in this number. It is recogniz-